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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR TYSON:      ...effect of that is we're going to evidently have to look for new revenue. And if we get our revenue this way, I will tell you that we will pay for it with a price that we cannot calculate now. So I ask that you support Senator Brashear's bracket motion. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN:      Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Beutler, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER:      Senator Coordsen, members of the Legislature, when I first came into the Legislature early in the 1980s, we began talking almost for the very first time about the subject of business incentives and incentives from state government for the purpose of encouraging business, and it all had started a few years before, I think in about 1956 when Alabama passed the Industrial Development Act. And for the first time, the state was allowing, essentially, a business to use its credit...tax exempt bonds for the purposes of encouraging business to come into Alabama. And within a dozen years, it spread from Alabama across the South, across that competitive region, and as it touched the borders of other regions, it spread across the entire nation until there was this full-blown involvement of state governments in the aid of business. And then it just started multiplying. It began to affect sales tax, income tax, and states began in multitudinous ways whipsawing each other into greater and greater and greater benefits being given to businesses to attract them to the state. And once again, in my opinion, the good old federal government has failed to do what it should do in a situation like this and put a stop to the whole business. When I first came into the Legislature, I was against everything that came in front of the Legislature that created this kind of incentive because I was, believe it or not, the most conservative guy around. I believed then and I believe now in classic economic theory. You choose to go somewhere to establish a business because those functions relating to the business worked better in some areas, and in some areas the cost would...would...would dictate that you go there. If you need water, you go where the water is. Those should be the classic determinations of where business locates. The states shouldn't be involved in all that. It's just another government